REMARKS

Applicant responds to the final office action dated June 14, 2007 as follows. Favorable reconsideration in view of the following remarks is requested.

Claims 1-3, 7-10, 16 and 21 were rejected under § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. 6,658,485 ("Baber"). Claims 4, 6 and 17 were rejected under § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Baber in view of U.S. 20030033440 ("Hickson"). Claims 5 and 18 were rejected under § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Baber and Hickson in view of U.S. 6,691,175 ("Lodrige"). Claims 11-15 were rejected under § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Baber in view of U.S. 20020225465 ("Pramanick").

These rejections are traversed. The same rejections were made in the last office action, and Applicant incorporates here its remarks that were made in response to that office action.

Nevertheless, to better frame the issues with regard to the Examiner's main reference, Applicant will note the following regarding the present claims and the rejections.

I.   The present claims require that a user message is presented to a user.

Claim 1 recites a method of gathering information about a user message. The method recites that the presentation of a user message is detected, that a user message identifier is recorded in response to the detection and used in storing information that documents the presented user message. Examples of user messages include those that are presented when the user makes an input of the wrong format, or when the system seeks user confirmation before proceeding. Specification 2:31—3:2. Examples of information that can be stored include those shown in the logs 200 and 300. Specification 4:8—5:31. For example, the specification describes that "[u]ser messages are often in form of a dialog box displayed on a computer screen to inform the user of something or to elicit input or information from the user". Specification 1:6-7. The other independent claims 16 and 21 recite identical or similar language.

Applicant submits that no prior art of record discloses or shows the detection of a presented user message, or the storing of information that documents the presented user message.

II. Baber is directed to processing of messages <u>before</u> presenting them to a user, and does not detect that a message is presented to a user.

A review of Baber reveals that the message processing described therein takes place before the message is presented to the user. For example, at the end the section called Background of the Invention, Baber states:

> However, there are no known techniques that allow dynamically changing the priority of *messages that are already in transit*--that is, messages which are either queued waiting for transmission, or are in the process of being transmitted, or have been received but *not delivered to the application*--in order to respond to changing conditions.
>
> Accordingly, what is needed is a technique that enables senders and receivers of messages to dynamically change the transmission priority of *in-transmit messages* to account for changed conditions. Baber 3:57-67 (emphasis added unless noted).

The remainder of Baber confirms the quoted statements above. For example, Baber describes the disclosed queuing mechanisms as follows:

> Using the novel technique of the present invention, the sending and receiving sides can both use commands available in the interface to the message queuing system to identify a data object queued earlier, and request that the priority associated with this data object be changed. For the sending side, the priority change can be requested *up until the last message segment for the data object has been sent* across the network and delivered to the receiving application. For the receiving side, changes to the transmission priority can generally be requested for any message segments that have not yet been sent across the network and for those that have *not been delivered* to the receiving application. Baber 8:34-46.

The above passage makes clear that the changes in transmission priority taught by Baber, from both the sending and the receiving side, take place before a message is delivered to the receiving application.

In fact, Baber does not describe any processing of a message after it is displayed or otherwise presented to a user. Accordingly, the Examiner's reliance on Baber is believed to be based on misunderstandings of the Baber reference.

A. Baber's FIG. 4 describes processing that occurs before a message is presented to a user.

The Examiner takes the position that step 420 in Baber's FIG. 4 discloses the claimed subject matter "detecting that a program presents a user message to a user in a computer system where the program is being executed". Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Baber states that the method shown in FIG. 4 "depicts, at a high level, the logic used in the message queuing systems of the sending and receiving implementations of the present invention to monitor and process the events being received." Baber 12:47-50. It has been discussed above that Baber's message queuing is performed before messages are presented to users.

Particularly, step 420 detects that a message segment arrives at a receiver system. Baber 12:54-55. However, after arrival, the message is first stored in the queuing mechanism 360 and the message segments are then assembled into the data object 380. When that is done, Baber describes, "[t]he receiving application 350 will then access 309 the data object 380 when required by the needs of the application 350." Baber 10:57—11:2. Thus, Baber's step 420, which is performed upon arrival at the receiver, is performed before the message is presented to the user.

It follows that Baber's step 420 does not disclose or suggest "detecting that a program presents a user message to a user ..." as recited in the present claims.

B. Baber's FIG. 6 describes processing that occurs before a message is presented to a user.

The Examiner also takes the position that step 600 in Baber's FIG. 6 discloses the claimed subject matter "detecting that a program presents a user message to a user in a computer system where the program is being executed". Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Baber states that the method shown in FIG. 6 "depicts the logic used to process arrival of a message segment from the network 340 at a receiving queue mechanism 360." Baber 13:64-66. Baber's message queuing is performed before messages are presented to users.

Particularly, step 600 extracts item identifier, priority and data content from the segment. Baber 13:66—14:1. However, Baber teaches that the receiving application 350 will access the message in the data object 380 when the message queuing is finished. Baber 10:57—11:2. Thus, Baber's step 600, which is performed upon arrival at the receiver, is performed before the message is presented to the user.

It follows that Baber's step 600 does not disclose or suggest "detecting that a program presents a user message to a user ..." as recited in the present claims.

The Examiner also takes the position that step 620 in Baber's FIG. 6 discloses the subject matter claimed in the portions of claim 1 that read "recording, in response to the detection, a user message identifier of the user message" and "using the recorded user message identifier in storing information ...". Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Baber's step 620 "generates the information to be stored on the notification queue 370 for this message segment, from received parameters which specify the item identifier and priority, and optionally a 'percent complete' indication, and the file name in which the object is being stored." Baber 14:14-19. However, Baber teaches that it is not until the notification is dequeued from the notification queue that the receiving application can access the message. Baber 11:45-51. A such, Baber's step 620 is performed before messages are presented to users.

It follows that Baber's step 620 does not disclose or suggest the "recording ..." and "using ..." recited in the present claims.

In short, Baber does not anticipate or render unpatentable the subject matter of the present independent claims.

Additional features recited in the present dependent claims are also not disclosed or suggested by Baber or any other reference of record. Without conceding that the Examiner's characterizations are correct, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least due to their dependency.

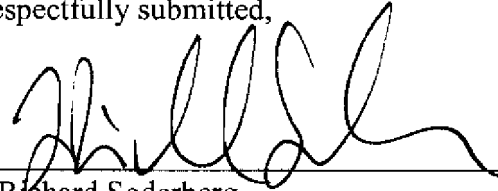## Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration is requested.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/13/07

J. Richard Soderberg
Reg. No. 43,352

Fish & Richardson P.C.
60 South Sixth Street
Suite 3300
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 335-5070
Facsimile: (612) 288-9696

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